

Brice - Application Serial No. 09/596,081

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

DRAFT CLAIMS FOR INTERVIEW ON OCTOBER 17, 2002 AT 2:30 PM

1. A toothbrush comprising:

an elongated handle, shaped and dimensioned to be grasped by a human hand, having a first end and a second end;

a first neck extending from the second end of the elongated handle, having a proximal end attached to the elongated handle and having a distal end;

a second neck extending from the second end of the elongated handle, having a proximal end attached to the elongated handle and having a distal end;

a first bristle support attached to the distal end of the first neck;

a second bristle support attached to the distal end of the second neck;

a plurality of first bristles extending from the first bristle support;

a plurality of second bristles extending from the second bristle support,

wherein the plurality of first and second bristles have a stiffness, and the first and second necks have a resiliency, a flexibility and a bending resistance, and

wherein the value of said stiffness relative to said resiliency, flexibility and bending resistance is set in accordance with a brushing force such that the bristles make and maintain contact with a dento-gingival junction and all other changing surfaces encountered during brushing, in order to disrupt plaque.

particular relationship

2. The toothbrush of claim 1, further comprising:

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a resilient thumb contact structure inserted in the handle, and dimensioned such that the human thumb, when the handle is grasped for using the toothbrush, exerts a thumb pressing force on the resilient thumb contact.

3. The toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the second neck extends from the second end of the elongated handle parallel to the first neck.
4. The toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the plurality of second bristles extend from the second bristle support in a direction substantially parallel to the plurality of first bristles.
5. The toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the plurality of first and second bristles are formed of a material having a first stiffness.
6. The toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the resilient thumb contact structure includes an oval-shaped resilient thumb contact structure.
7. The toothbrush of claim 6, wherein a cavity of the elongated handle includes an oval-shaped cavity.
8. The toothbrush of claim 1, wherein the first bristle support and the second bristle support are twin articulating heads.

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9. The toothbrush of claim 1,

wherein the first and second bristle supports also have a resiliency, a flexibility and a bending resistance, and

wherein the value of said stiffness of said bristles relative to said resiliency, flexibility and bending resistance of said necks and said bristle supports is set in accordance with the brushing force such that the bristles make and maintain contact with the dento-gingival junction and all other changing surfaces encountered during brushing, in order to disrupt plaque.